

2d 35 B.B. 80

THE
FORMER AND PRESENT
S T A T E
O F
GLASGOW
CONTRASTED,
A
D R E A M.

WHEREIN

Several Symtoms of the Degeneracy, and Apostacy of
this once famous City, are mentioned;

AND

Means pointed out, whereby, through the Divine Bless-
ing, its ruin may be prevented.

*Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people, Prov.
xiv. 34.*

*The LORD saith, Them that honour me I will honour, and they that de-
spise me shall be lightly esteemed, 1 Sam. ii. 30.*

*Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily; therefore the
heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil, Eccl. viii. 11.*

*But he that doth wrong shall receive for the wrong that he hath done: and
there is no respect of persons, Col. iii. 25.*

*The LORD trieth the righteous; but the wicked, and him that loveth vio-
lence, his soul hateth. Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brim-
stone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. For
the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the
upright, Psal. xi. 5, 6, 7.*

GLASGOW:

PRINTED IN THE YEAR M,DCC,LXXXVII.



G

O
there;
down i
ments
that I
old man
now go
which
On a li
er here
gow la
Stra
of the
this fan
cannot
meet,
Citiz
new ho
compan
Stra
Pray a
Cit.
ing hou
Stra
vided i
this im
establis
Scotlan
of this
Cit.
reet,
Stra
is not f
take for
Cit.
ng the

T H E

FORMER AND PRESENT STATE OF

G L A S G O W

C O N T R A S T E D,

A D R E A M.

ONE evening lately, I took a turn through the Ramshorn ground, and observed the various buildings now going on there; and being pretty wearied, returned home, threw myself down in my easy chair and took a nap.—The idea of the improvements of Glasgow, had made such an impression upon my mind, that I fell a dreaming about them; and saw in my sleep, a decent old man, who asked me several questions concerning the buildings now going on here: I gave him all the information I could, with which he seemed to be satisfied, and very politely thanked me.—On a little farther conversation with him, I found he was a stranger here, and asked him how long it might be since he was in Glasgow last?

Stranger. It is about fifty years ago: I had heard so much of the improvements here, that I wanted once more to see this famous City before I leave this world, which I imagine cannot be very distant; and whenever divine providence sees meet, I have no objection to bid this world adieu.

Citizen. You will undoubtedly be at a loss Sir, to know many new houses, and even streets here; if agreeable to you, I will accompany you through the town.

Stran. I shall be much obliged to you for your trouble.—Pray are all the Meeting-houses in our view established Kirks?

Cit. No Sir, only one of them, the rest are the Burghers Meeting-house, the Chapel of Ease, the Highland Chapel, &c.

Stran. What a pity is it that the people of Scotland are so divided in their opinions at present; however, it is impossible in this imperfect state to be of one mind, and a Secession from the established Church is absolutely necessary, in many parishes in Scotland, *where the blind lead the blind.*—Pray what is the name of this street?

Cit. This Sir, is Miller's-street, and opposite to it is Dunlop-street, of which we shall take a look if you please.

Stran. Miller's-street is very handsome; but Dunlop-street is not finished yet. On my left hand I see a house which I should take for a place of worship, were it not without windows.

Cit. Such as frequent this house have no desire after light, seeing they are employed in the works of darkness.

Strang. Pray what do you mean by that?

Cit. You must know Sir, that this is our Play-house.

Stran. O yes! where Satan's buffoons beguile simple people out of their time and money, with "filthiness and foolish talking, and jesting, which are not convenient." But I hope it is very ill attended? I remember to have heard, that the first Play-house in Glasgow was a wooden one, at the head of the Town; and Mr. Whitfield being preaching in the High Kirk yard, lamented the growth of impiety and immorality here, and among other signs of these pointed at the Devil's Play-house, and called out to his audience, "Down with it, down with it." Which had the desired effect, the greater part of his congregation set off, fell to work, and in a few minutes levelled it with the ground! And I think I heard that a Play-house here was burnt to the ground sometime ago; was that the case?

Cit. Yes Sir, it was; and it was generally thought that this was done intentionally; however it afforded no small diversion to the beholders at an early hour, for none would move a hand or foot to save it; and it gave universal pleasure to well-disposed people here to see it in ruins; and they entertained hopes that it would never be rebuilt: but to such a pitch of depravity are we arrived, that you see another reared up! although most detrimental to the youth in this City of both sexes, where they hear cursing and swearing, impious and profane talking.

Stran. Your Ministers, I am persuaded will bear ample testimony against this school for vice, and frequently warn their hearers against it.

Cit. On the erection of a Play-house, our clergy were faithful in declaring against it; but since its establishment by authority, they seldom or never mention it.

Stran. What a pity is it that vice should be countenanced in any respect, by those in power? however, that by no means lessens the evil of it; nor the obligation of all lovers of virtue to hold it in most sovereign contempt, and to witness against it. Pray what Kirk is this, which I see at the foot of this street?

Cit. That is St. Enoch's kirk Sir, which was lately built, and makes the eight parish kirk here.

Stran. I am surprised how your kirks contain the inhabitants, who must be greatly increased since I was here last, and you have had few new kirks erected; they must undoubtedly be much crowded.

Cit. No Sir, so far from that being the case, when the seats were set in May last, there were no fewer than seats for 1470 sitters advertised in our Newspapers, being unset!

Stran. That astonishes me exceedingly. I have formerly been

in several of your kirks, and found them well filled ; what can be the reason of their being deserted now ? is this the case in general ? I presume your Magistrates and Council, with the general Session, will be at all pains to satisfy the people, and give them their choice of the best ministers they can find, to supply your vacancies.

Cit. Since you were here last Sir, many divisions have taken place, and new places of worship have been erected, by people who would not submit to the Magistrates in thrusting in Ministers against their will, for no regard is now paid to the general Session in choosing a Minister ; notwithstanding, our kirks could not contain one half of the inhabitants, were they to attend public worship ; but a great many, of what are termed our *better sort of folks*, attend no place of worship ! but spend the Sabbath in idleness, business, or diversion, in going to the country in parties of pleasure, &c. Some of our kirks are still throng, and were the people to have their choice of Ministers, this would be the case in general ; we had a popular election of a Minister some years ago, and every inch of that kirk set.

Stran. That accursed law of Patronage has well nigh ruined the people of Scotland, both in their temporal and spiritual interests. I am exceeding sorry to hear that your people in high life are so foolish as turn their backs on divine ordinances, and trample on divine authority ; their lifting up seems to be that their fall may be the greater. When I was here last the Magistrates attended the week days sermons, and the shops were all shut during that time ; but I am afraid that is not the case now.—If your Magistrates should at any time bring in a Minister against the will of the people, I think it would be but just to oblige them, out of their own pockets, to make up the deficiency of the seat rents, by paying for all the seats that may be unset ; or, that the Minister should be paid his stipend, according as the seats set in his kirk.

Cit. No Sir, that is not the case ; but in the kirks where seats are set readily, the rents of late have been doubled, to make up the sum wanted for the Ministers stipends.

Stran. Astonishing ! that the community should suffer for a fault of the Magistrates and Council !

Cit. I presume Sir you are wearied with your journey, and the day being spent, would you be so good as lodge with me to-night, and to-morrow being Sabbath, you can spend the day at my house, more comfortably than in a tavern ?

Stran. You are too kind Sir ; but your arguments have so much weight in them, that I must do myself the pleasure of going along with you.

Cit. I am afraid Sir, you will find the noise on the street rather disagreeable, although it gives people in town little trouble.

Stran. I must put up with that, seeing it cannot be helped ; but I hear some worthless persons cursing and swearing ! I am surprised they are not afraid of being heard.

Cit. Why so Sir ?

Stran. Why, lest they should be fined or imprisoned ; this was the case with swearers when I was here last ; is it not so now ?

Cit. No Sir, that good custom was dropt many years ago, and every one has liberty to swear at pleasure, without any trouble from a Magistrate !

Stran. Your Magistrates are not to blame in this respect, except when they hear any person swearing, then they should certainly punish them ; but you and I are guilty, if we suffer any person to swear in our hearing, without using means to bring them to punishment.

Cit. I am afraid Sir, that would be a troublesome and litigious affair.

Stran. Quite the contrary ; by the act of Parliament George II. 1745. entitled *An Act more effectually to prevent profane cursing and swearing*. This act ordains, ‘ That every profane curser or swearer, pay as follows, viz. every common man one shilling ; every other person under the degree of a gentleman two shillings ; and every person of or above the degree of a gentleman five shillings ; and so much more for every time the offence is committed. Constables are appointed to seize such if unknown, and bring them before the next Justice of Peace or Magistrate, who is to convict them on the officer’s oath ; and if they are known, he is to make information against them, and the Justice of Peace or Magistrate is, upon information, to order the party to appear, and fine him as above, which must be immediately paid down, or security given ; or, if the offender be insolvent, he must be committed for ten days to the Correction House, except common soldiers and sailors, who, not paying, are to be kept in the stocks. Justices and Magistrates, not doing their duty, are to forfeit 5 l. and constables, not doing their duty, are to forfeit 2 l. All which penalties are to be given to the poor of the parish within which the offender lives. Offenders must also pay the expence of suit, or be committed to the Correction House for six days extraordinary : but this offence must be prosecuted within eight days after committing thereof.’

Cit. If that salutary Act were put in execution, we might soon see a great reformation here.

Stran. But pray what is the meaning of this noise in the back

clofs to-night? It is time for people to be going to bed, especially on a Saturday night, that they may not encroach on the Sabbath, and may be prepared by rest for a due attendance on the duties required on that day.

Cit. Very true Sir; but quite the contrary is the case here: Saturday night being the most debauched night in the week; and people are later up on it, than any other night!

Stran. Pray what is that owing to?

Cit. On Saturday Sir, our tradesmen are commonly paid their wages, and many spend the evening in the ale-house, get drunk, and meeting with black-guard fellows in town, who frequent houses of bad fame, make disturbance.

Stran. But I hear womens voices, calling out murder, what can that mean?

Cit. We happen to be very ill situated here Sir, having a house of bad fame in our clofs; and those who frequent it, have an outcast among themselves just now.

Stran. And do your Magistrates take no account of such pests to society?

Cit. When any of the inhabitants complain to them of a house of this nature, they order it to be watched, and the females who haunt it are apprehended, and sent to the Correction-house, where they are confined for some weeks, and then let out again, more hardened in wickedness than before, by their having been shut up with their accomplices in vice.

Stran. Could no method be fallen upon to extirpate such bad houses entirely?

Cit. Yes Sir, were our Magistrates to advertise in our Newspapers, that upon complaint from any of the sober inhabitants, against the keepers of such houses, they would be examined before them, and if found guilty, drummed out of the town, with certification, if they ever returned here, their furniture would be seized, roused, and applied to charitable uses, and themselves imprisoned, and whipt out of town. Also landlords, who set houses to people of this description, knowing them to be such, should be fined of a year's rent, to be applied to charitable uses. And the names of men and women, who haunt such houses, should be published in our Newspapers, that the public might be on their guard against them.

Stran. If such regulations as these were adopted and strictly adhered to, you would undoubtedly find a change to the better. And I am surprised some effectual method has not been fallen upon, to get rid of such vermine. Pray what do these disturbances end in?

Cit. These abandoned creatures, who attend the houses of bad

fame, are idle through the day, and having no visible way of subsistence, they must either steal or starve; therefore they go about in the night, and break into houses and shops, and carry off every thing they can lay their hands on.

Stran. Have you no guard at night to apprehend such wretches?

Cit. We have a guard of military; but their station is at the Guard-house, and except when changing centinals, they are never on the streets, consequently thieves and robbers are not afraid of them.

Stran. I am surprised that such a place as this, has not a City-Guard of the inhabitants, suppose thirty each night by rotation, which would not be above twice in the year to each inhabitant fit to mount Guard; these might patrol the streets, and keep all quiet.

Cit. In England, the great towns are divided into wards, and a Constable appointed to each ward; if Glasgow were thus divided, and twenty respectable citizens appointed to oversee the several streets and lanes, by day and night, with power from the Magistrates to call the citizens to assist them in apprehending and committing to prison, all disorderly persons, till tried by a Magistrate, it might be attended with the best consequences; and we might soon see an alteration to the better.

Stran. I am surprised that self-preservation, both of persons and property, does not prompt people to such regulations as these; which would be attended with so little trouble, and might contribute so much to the peace and security of the sober inhabitants.

Cit. You cannot conceive Sir, what difficulty there is in persuading people here to do any thing, that would either be attended with trouble or expences, however trifling; and if people can shift for themselves, the generality are quite indifferent about their fellow creatures!

Stran. I must bid you a good night Sir.

Cit. Farewell Sir, I wish you good rest.

SABBATH MORNING.

Cit. How do you do this morning Sir?

Stran. Pretty well I thank you. When I was here formerly, I heard the praises of God singing in the mornings and evenings in every corner of this City. I think I have heard none of this, since I came here just now; to what can this be owing?

Cit. Why Sir, it is owing to our depravity. One in high life here, who would keep family worship, would be laughed at, among his unthinking neighbours and acquaintances.

Stran. That man who has the approbation of God and his own conscience, may make very light of the censure or sneer of blinded fools; and may look down upon such, however exalted among men, with the utmost pity and commiseration. It is a strange degree of depravity indeed for any to go the length of despising a fellow creature for answering the end of his creation. Pray what music is that which I hear?

Cit. This is the Military changing guard.

Stran. And cannot that be done *on Sabbath*, without playing their fifes?

Cit. Undoubtedly it could; but some regiments have gone much farther than this, and have played along the streets, for a considerable time at the Guard-house, and in the Green, with a band of music! and some officers have been so audaciously wicked, that they have refused to give this over, at the desire of our Magistrates, till an order was attained from the Commander in chief in Scotland, for that purpose!

Stran. It is astonishing, that men of any profession, in a land of light, should be so wretchedly ignorant of the divine law, which is eternally binding on all the human race; and to please their own corrupt humours should make themselves obnoxious to divine indignation. But pray what are these barbers running about on the street for?

Cit. These are journeymen barbers Sir, who have a throng day of it on Sabbath, in dressing young thoughtless giddy people.

Stran. It is astonishing that the Magistrates allow them to continue such an abominable practice; they should certainly fine their masters for it, and oblige them to give it over.

Cit. The master barbers are innocent in this matter Sir, and have offered once and again to join with the Magistrates, in suppressing this custom entirely; but have not yet succeeded!

Stran. I presume it will be time to go to the kirk, I hear the bells ringing.

Cit. Yes Sir, some of our bells are ringing, and others will be an hour later.

Stran. Pray what is the reason, that your kirks do not all meet at the same hour? certainly that was the case when I was here last.

Cit. You are right Sir, they did; but this change is owing to our depravity:—In several of our kirks they have but one discourse in the forenoon it is said, for I was never a witness to it, nor never shall, while I can get two discourses in any of our kirks at that time.

Stran. Pray what is the meaning of that crowd, this is not a place of worship sure?

Cit. No Sir, but it is more regularly attended this day than any kirk in town ; this is our *Post-Office*.

Stran. Certain I am there was no post came in here on Sabbath, when I was formerly here ; I am astonished at your falling off from your wonted good sense, and piety ! are letters given out of your office on Sabbath ?

Cit. Yes Sir, openly in the face of the sun, and that in the time of public worship, a custom which would not be allowed in a Popish country, on a holy day !

Stran. This is acting diametrically opposite to his Majesty's late proclamation, wherein he ' requires and commands all his loving subjects, of what degree or quality soever, decently and reverently to attend the worship of God, on every Lord's day, on pain of his highest displeasure, and of being proceeded against with the utmost rigour that may be by law.' And I am astonished that your Magistrates, supposing they should pay no regard to the law of God, do not shew themselves loyal subjects to their Sovereign, by putting a stop to this heaven-daring wickedness.

Cit. A number of our merchants, have a notion in their heads, that this is beneficial to trade ! But as sin is the reproach, so in the end it must prove the ruin of any people.

Stran. ' The prosperity of fools destroys them. What shall it profit a man, if he should gain the whole world, and lose his own soul ? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul ?' Men may thrive in the world, and notwithstanding, may be cursed in every thing they possess ; and may attribute their success to their superior wisdom to others ; never thinking of God, who in his divine providence dispenseth gifts severally as he will ; and for which all must render an account.

Cit. Very true Sir, but the shadows of time bulk so much in the eyes of these deluded men, that they neglect their best interests.

Stran. This must undoubtedly be the case of all who thus trample upon divine authority, set a bad example before their domestics, neglect the means of grace, pour contempt on the worship of God, and mispend that day which he has set apart for himself, about the insignificant trifles of this world ; and thus do all in their power to obliterate the thoughts of a Supreme being from their own, and others minds ! but alas ! are they a match for omnipotence !

Cit. Whatever opinion the world may form of such men, they are undoubtedly very bad members of society ; and deserve no confidence from their fellow creatures. Without the sense of a Supreme being on the mind, and a belief that we are accountable to him, society would come to an end ; and, like the beasts of prey, men would devour one another.

Stran. Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as alas! the manner of some is in this place, but let us wait upon the divine ordinances, expecting a blessing with them.

* * * * *

Cit. Now Sir, that the forenoon service is over, I hope you are well pleased, with what you have heard?

Stran. Very well pleased Sir, and much edified; I am glad you have the gospel preached so clearly in its simplicity.

Cit. This is ground of great thankfulness; but alas! Sir, you see our barrenness under such choice means of grace.

Stran. What are these people doing at the cross to-day, walking about and trifling away precious time to no purpose, except drawing down judgments on themselves, this City and Nation. I am surprised your Magistrates do not disperse them, and call them to account for their conduct to-morrow. When I was here last that laudable custom was followed; why was it dropt?

Cit. Our Magistrates continued this custom till some hot-headed fools carried the matter before the Court of Session; some of whom, from affluent circumstances, were reduced to penury! God sometimes punishes arch-rebels against his government, in this life, to shew that he is a God who judgeth in the earth; but he often delays to punish obstinate sinners here, to shew that he is infinite in patience, and will punish hereafter:

Stran. I presume the trial you mention, happened before his present Majesty's accession to the throne; and I question much if the Court of Session, or any Court in Britain, would in the least countenance Sabbath-profanation, in express contradiction to his Majesty's pleasure, and in opposition to the Acts of Parliament referred to in said Proclamation. And consequently I should think it an easy matter for your Magistrates, Ministers and Elders, to suppress Sabbath-profanation. The Magistrates might revive the good old custom of watching the streets on Sabbath, and ordering the peace officers to seize all disorderly persons, and carry them to prison; the Ministers also might revive the good old custom of preaching frequently against Sabbath-profanation; and the elders have their different proportions, with which they must be well acquainted, consequently can be at no loss to know, who under their charge profane the Sabbath; and let all such, without exception, be cut off from church privileges; and if any on charity, or their children, be found profaneing the Sabbath, let them be struck off the poor's list. These regulations, I am persuaded, would have the desired effect.

Cit. If put in execution, I doubt not but they would; but I am afraid some of our Elders themselves are guilty of walking at the cross on Sabbath! what should be done in that case?

Stran. The more I see and hear of your City, the lower it sinks in my estimation. If any of your Elders act so very inconsistently as openly to profane the Sabbath! they certainly deserve to be laid aside from their office, and means should be used to reclaim them; but if found contumacious, they ought to be deposed; and others put in their place, who fear God, and live exemplary lives. I hear your bells ringing for the afternoon sermon, I presume all your kirks meet at the same hour now?

Cit. Yes Sir, they do, and if you please we will be going.

Stran. With all my heart. Pray how are there so many idle people standing about the pillars to-day?

Cit. They seem to be chiefly from the country, and meet here between sermons, to get news I suppose, and stand gazing at every person who passes by.

Stran. If they come here to join in public worship, they should employ the time between sermons better, either by staying in the kirks and reading their Bibles, or going into places of retirement, and not stand publicly profaning the Sabbath. Your peace-officers, might, by a word speaking, disperse them.

* * * * *

Cit. I hope Sir, you are well pleased with our afternoon's sermon?

Stran. Yes, very well. But alas! what crowds of idle boys and girls, I see diverting themselves on the streets! I presume they have been at no kirk; but have been profaning the Sabbath during the time of public worship! which is directly contrary to his Majesty's Proclamation! Your Magistrates are certainly culpable in allowing this; and one should think, on seeing your streets just now, that you were in a state of rebellion, and with design were trampling on his Majesty's authority! as alas! you are in open rebellion against the King of kings, and are trampling on the divine law, which is eternally binding on all the human race.

Cit. I am perfectly ashamed of our streets just now; but am afraid you would be still more shocked Sir, were you to go the length of our Green, and look into it.

Stran. I have seen enough of Glasgow, and have altered my opinion of it entirely since I met with you. There is another intolerable custom, I see some at the well, and carrying in water! when I was here last, that would not have passed unpunished. It would be an easy matter for your Magistrates to order all your wells to be lock'd on Saturday night, at twelve o'clock, and opened early on Monday morning.

Cit. Yes Sir, but they excuse themselves from this, in case fire should happen on Sabbath.

Stran. To prevent any inconvenience in that respect, one should be appointed to keep the key of each well who lives near it, and the locks, in case of necessity, might easily be knocked off. I think the bulk of the people are going down this street; is there sermon any where at this hour which they are going to?

Cit. No Sir, they are going to the Green to walk, and throw away precious time that hangs heavy on their hands.

Stran. What fools they are! they might retire and read their Bibles, and by the blessing of heaven improve in divine knowledge.—I imagined children only had diverted themselves on this day; but I see grown-up people of both sexes going this way; I presume these are the black-guards and w——s, we heard making disturbance last night, and such like?

Cit. Perhaps they are Sir; although I cannot say what company frequents the Green on Sabbath, seeing I have not been in it, on that day, these dozen of years.

Stran. What crowds of young thoughtless creatures, I see diverting themselves on this day, in every corner! How culpable are their parents, who in direct contradiction to their solemn engagements at baptism, to train them up in the fear of God, allow them thus to trample on divine authority; and it is very likely, are doing so themselves! How unworthy church members are these! and what an account can they give to the Judge of all the earth, at death and the final judgment!—Have you no Sabbath schools here? No town in Britain has greater occasion for them, than Glasgow, seemingly.

Cit. No Sir, we have none; although several attempts have been made to have them erected here! Some well wishers to religion alledge, that we have no occasion for any, seeing we have charity schools already!

Stran. These must be greater strangers in Glasgow, than I am; we have a sad proof to the contrary before our eyes; and it is astonishing that the people here should not, long before this time, have erected Sabbath-schools, which they see from the Newspapers, have been blest as a mean of great reformation among the lower ranks of people in London, and many towns in England; and the good effects of these are also appearing in Edinburgh; and no fewer than three of them have been erected at Aberdeen!

Cit. Some friends to humanity here have had this matter in agitation for many months past; but they wish some people in high rank to take the lead in it.

Stran. 'Not many mighty, not many noble are called.' And it is altogether in vain to think, that any will be hearty in this matter, who are profaners of the Sabbath themselves; nor should any of that description be asked to join in it. I hope, from the appearance of people going to, and returning from the differ-

kirks here to-day, five hundred subscribers may be easily found, who would chearfully contribute *five shillings per annum*, for this laudable purpose ; which would raise a sum sufficient to maintain *five Sabbath schools* ; at which *three hundred children* might be taught to read, and be catechised on Sabbath mornings and evenings. And ignorant people who are advanced in life, might also be admitted to hear, and receive instruction.

Cit. A most laudable, and necessary scheme Sir ; which might be of more real benefit to Glasgow, than the Infirmary now in agitation to be built here. Shall large sums of money be subscribed for, to maintain a house, where bodily ailments may be alleviated or cured ; and will none contribute a few shillings to procure means, which, by the divine blessing, restore health to the precious and immortal soul ! which is mortally wounded by sin, and without knowledge, must perish eternally ?

Stran. Your argument has so much weight in it, that if I am spared till to-morrow, I will use means to set on foot a subscription for this purpose, and hope, bad as Glasgow is grown, to find plenty of subscribers.

Cit. We have an evening Lecture at six o'clock, if you please, we will go there ; I hear the bell for that purpose.

Stran. With all my heart ; but I presume you are too late, is not the kirk much crowded in the evening ?

Cit. No Sir, in summer I have seen it rather thin, and in winter, numbers of young disorderly persons go to make diversion ! and to the disgrace of Christianity, make disturbance during the time of worship !

Stran. I should think that might be easily prevented, were the peace-officers ordered by the Magistrates to seize such disorderly persons, carry them to prison, and confine them till Monday, when they might be brought to a trial ; and if found guilty of disturbing the worship of God, might be sent to the House of Correction, publicly whipt, or branded in the hand or forehead, according to the degree of their crime.

* * * * *

Cit. Now Sir, our public worship is over, and I hope you have been well pleased with it to-day ?

Stran. Very well pleased : But I am exceedingly shocked to see your streets to night ; they are as throng as any night in the week ! alas ! what a change since I was here last ! when no person was allowed to stroll about idly on Sabbath ; and if strangers would venture out, the Magistrates and Elders, who were watching, asked any they saw profaning the Sabbath what they were about, and ordered them home to their quarters. To what a height did the zeal of all ranks rise here then, for the glory of God, and

good of their fellow creatures! And Glasgow was famous in Europe and America, for Sabbath-sanctification! but now your fall is as great, and were your degeneracy and apostacy really known, you would become a by-word, and a hissing among the nations around you. I think you told me just now that public worship was over here, pray then what is the meaning of light in these large windows? is not that a place of worship?

Cit. No Sir, that is our Tontine Coffee-house.

Stran. And pray what are people doing there this evening?

Cit. I am quite ashamed to inform you Sir.

Stran. It is unlawful to transact business on this day, both by the laws of God and man: for what end then do any meet there to-night?

Cit. Those who frequent that house, not only meet at night; but also through the day!

Stran. And pray how are they employed? I must know that?

Cit. I understand Sir, that they are chiefly employed in reading Newspapers, and talking nonsense! and that even during the time of public worship!

Stran. And is this known to your Magistrates? it is astonishing that they allow a company of poor wretches, thus openly to profane the Sabbath, during the time of public worship; and I am surprised that the virtuous inhabitants here do not complain of this to his Majesty, and get that synagogue of Satan shut up on Sabbath. O! the devilish effrontery of these blinded fools!

Cit. You seem to be warm on this subject Sir; and I must confess that transport is temper here; for I never reflect on those who frequent that place on Sabbath, but with the height of indignation, and most sovereign contempt. However, they do not open the fore door of the Tontine on this day; but have a back door they enter in, and go out by.

Stran. And do they imagine to hide their wickedness from an omniscient God, who knows their thoughts afar off, and will bring their every thought, word and action into judgment, before an assembled world of angels and men, another day!—I have done with Glasgow; I never travelled a foot breadth on Sabbath in my life before; but this night I am under the disagreeable necessity of leaving this wicked, abandoned City.

Cit. Dear Sir, pray remember your promise of setting on foot a subscription here to-morrow for Sabbath schools; you must not, therefore, leave this place to-night.

Stran. Sabbath schools! I despair of ever hearing that such schools are erected here! If any look to those who now, or shall hereafter attend the Tontine on Sabbath, to take the lead in this matter, they may wait from age to age, till the last trumpet sounds. Farewell.

Cit. My dear Sir, I beg you would consider that by leaving this place to-night, you will join the wicked crew, who profane the Sabbath, by unnecessary travelling! you must not therefore leave us.

Thus pressing this good man to stay, and stretching out my arm to take hold of him, I struck my hand against a table standing before me, which awaked me out of sleep! The above thoughts, perhaps, have occurred a thousand times to every thinking person in Glasgow; notwithstanding, if they can have the least tendency to encourage virtue, and put vice to the blush, the public are welcome to them.

GLASGOW, Sept. 28th, 1787.

22 JV 69

A CITIZEN.

MY harp untun'd, and laid aside,
(To cheerful hours the harp belongs)
My cruel foes, insulting cry'd,
'Come, sing us one of Zion's songs.'

Alas! when sinners blindly bold,
At Zion scoff, and Zion's King;
When zeal declines and love grows cold,
Is this a day for me to sing?

Time was, whene'er the saints I met,
With joy and praise my bosom glow'd;
But now, like Eli, sad I sit,
And tremble for the ark of GOD.

While thus to grief my soul gave way,
To see the work of GOD decline;
Methought I heard my Saviour say,
"Dismiss thy tears the ark is mine.

"Tho' for a time I hide my face,
"Rely upon my love and pow'r;
"Still wrestle at a throne of grace,
"And wait for a reviving hour.

"Take down thy long neglected harp,
"I've seen thy tears, and heard thy pray'r,
"The winter season has been sharp,
"But spring shall all its wastes repair."

LORD, I obey, my hopes revive,
Come join with me, ye saints and sing;
Our foes in vain against us strive,
For GOD will help and healing bring.

NEWTON.

F I N I S.